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tance. "By encouraging the maintenance of the dwarf rural school," says Dr. Kent, "by having attached to its bestowal no conditions regarding enrollment, local taxation, local assessed valuation, and with extremely imperfect possibilities of checking whether the conditions presumed to be met have been met, state aid as it is at present distributed to the rural schools of Minnesota acts positively as a barrier to the advancement of the best interests of these schools and their patrons. It is educationally pauperizing the rural schools of the state." The danger in connection with aid given to special industrial departments lies in the lack of a definite aim and of "adequate standardization in its distribution."

The work is calculated to interest those who are trained in educational technology and in problems of school administration; hence it will make but small appeal to the layman unless he is willing to struggle through many tables that are not always explained in the clearest manner by the text. The style is marred by awkward expressions and frequently by unnecessarily involved sentences. One or two slips in proof reading, as, for example, "62 per cent" for "82 per cent" (p. 94), make it necessary for the reader to perform arithmetical calculations in order to correct erroneous statements. The valuable and illuminating graphs would be more usable were one set of symbols selected and strictly adhered to in all those where the same elements are under comparison. An analytical table of contents partly but not wholly makes up for the absence of an index, and the bibliography at the end would be more valuable had the author added a word or two of comment, especially in the case of the secondary works cited.

LESTER BURRELL SHIPPEE

*History of Clay and Norman Counties, Minnesota; Their People, Industries, and Institutions.* JOHN TURNER and C. K. SEMLING, joint editors. In two volumes. (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1918. 543, 915 p. Illustrated)

This work follows the plan upon which all recent Bowen histories of Minnesota counties are based and for the most part exhibits the merits and defects which have been noted in

these pages in reviews of Bowen and other commercial histories.<sup>1</sup> The first volume opens with a general introduction and a chapter on "Related State History"; this material is followed by a separate history of each county in the form of historical narratives, reminiscent accounts, extracts from official records, and statistical matter somewhat roughly divided and loosely bound together under such familiar topics as "Organization and County Government," "Agricultural Interests," "Bench and Bar," and "Military History." The second volume is devoted to biographical sketches, for the correctness of which in each case "the party interested" may be held responsible.

Clay and Norman counties are situated in the valley of the Red River of the North, a region famous in early days as a part of the fur trader's domain and as lying in the line of travel and commerce between points along the American frontier and settlements in far-off Canada, and equally well known in later years as a land of surpassing fertility. Unfortunately for the interest and distinctiveness of the *History of Clay and Norman Counties* the greater part of the detailed information given applies to the more prosaic period of some fifty years during which this region has been settled and developed, while the stirring events and activities of the earlier period are covered in a few brief paragraphs. The writer of the "Introduction" deplors this meagreness of treatment and ascribes it to the want of records and other sources of information. However justifiable this plea may be, there is some indication that full use has not been made of sources generally known to be available. For example, the structure of the famous Red River cart is indicated as follows: "Certain it is that the Red river wooden-wheeled carts passed over the trail that was still visible a few years since **through these two counties**—Clay and Norman. The writer has seen in the historic museum at New Ulm, Minnesota, one of those old rudely, yet strongly fashioned wooden-wheeled carts. . . . The wheels are made from a single cut from off the end of a large tree. They measure thirty inches in diameter and are bound heavily by wrought iron bands, and are attached to a heavy wooden axle by means of a linch-pin." Whatever use may have been made in its day of the cart preserved at New Ulm,

<sup>1</sup> See *ante*, 1: 378–386, 528; 2: 36–41, 85, 184.

it is certainly not one of those vehicles generally known as the Red River carts, as readily available descriptions and photographs of the latter will show. In fact, the genuine Red River cart may be recognized in a description of so-called Indian carts on page 261 of the same volume.

On the other hand, it is readily acknowledged that a great deal of useful information has been gotten together and made available through the medium of this work. The historical volume is unusually rich in the character and quality of some of its reminiscent accounts. Alvide Anderson, one of the woman pioneers of Clay County, recalls facts about pioneer days many of which are of the sort that too often go unrecorded as being too commonplace or trivial to be regarded as "history." The experience of A. O. Serum, a pioneer of Norman County, is frequently used to advantage. But most notable of all is an autobiographical sketch written by C. K. Semling, one of the editors of the present work. In this unusually interesting narrative Mr. Semling succeeds admirably in drawing, as he intended, "the picture . . . of an average immigrant family of peasant folk, and the attempts of the members of this family to adjust themselves to the new conditions in this our land of freedom and opportunity, and to 'get on,' as you may say." Beginning as it does with the life of the family in Norway before its emigration to America and following its history from the period of its establishment in its new home in Houston County, Minnesota, to the time when three of the sons removed to the Red River Valley, the account is worthy the attention of all students of the settlement of Minnesota. Special attention may here be called to the motive which led to the coming of this family to our land as suggested in the following excerpt from Mr. Semling's tribute to his parents: "Loaded down with the struggle of life in Norway, they embraced the momentous task of emigrating to America with eight children. . . . Had they sought their own convenience; had they chosen to follow the lines of least resistance, they would have remained in Norway. They undoubtedly had in mind securing easier conditions for their children than had been their own lot."

The publishers of this work have apparently entered upon the performance of a new and very important historical service in

gathering and publishing as a part of their "Military History" available information relating to the part played by men from these communities and by the communities themselves in the prosecution of the present war. Too much emphasis can not be placed upon the future historical importance of such material; and it is to be hoped not only that a larger amount of similar data will be embodied in forthcoming county histories but also that the clothing of this information, which is at the moment a matter of more or less common knowledge, in the garb of history will serve to suggest to people generally the wisdom of collecting local historical materials relative to the war at the time of their happening, and of carefully preserving them in order that the completed record may do the several communities due justice.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

*The Taming of the Sioux.* By FRANK FISKE. (Bismarck, North Dakota, Bismarck Tribune, 1917. 186 p. Illustrated)

This is an entertaining and instructive little book, giving a review of the history and transition of the Dakota or Sioux people "from a wild and warlike tribe to the present day Redman who loves peace and knows how to vote." The author is a young man whose home is at the old Fort Yates, the former Standing Rock agency, at the west side of the Missouri River in the south edge of North Dakota. He describes that post and agency for the thirty years from its founding in 1873 to its abandonment as a military post in 1903 as "the most important Sioux taming plant in the Indian country." He writes as one who knows his subject well, has sympathy with the Indians, but also sees the benefits of civilization.

Chapters or articles most nearly relating to Minnesota are entitled "The Outbreak of '62," "The Campaign of 1863," and "Other Forts and Fights," covering the period from Sully's expedition in 1864 to the building of Fort Buford, "commenced June 15th, 1866, on a high bench of table land on the Missouri, nearly opposite the mouth of the Yellowstone River."

Sixteen excellent full-page illustrations are supplied from photographs by the author; and numerous drawings are inserted at the ends of chapters, contributed by Francis Zahn (Holy Star), "a part Sioux of great talent."

WARREN UPHAM